

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA:PWLANDE:CF

APPROVED BY NEA:PWLANDE

NEA/P - MR HARRIS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, IN

SUBJECT: RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN SIMON WINCHESTER'S ARTICLE ON RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL IN INDIA WHICH APPEARED IN THE APRIL 11 WASHINGTON POST. WE EXPECT QUESTIONS ON THIS ARTICLE AND NEED CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL THAT SUCH A CIRCULAR WAS ACTUALLY SENT. WE ASSUME THAT THIS IS SIMPLY A REVIVAL OF THE CIRCULAR WHICH DATES BACK TO THE 1950S AND WHICH, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, EVERY EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI HAS IGNORED. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY INDICATION OF WHY THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN REVIVED.

2. ASSUMING THAT THE STORY IS BASED SOLELY ON A REVIVAL OF THE OLD CIRCULAR, WE ARE THINKING OF ISSUING THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE:

OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PERIODIC-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALLY REQUESTED ALL EMBASSIES IN NEW DELHI TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BEFORE OFFICIALS OF EMBASSIES TRAVEL OUTSIDE DELHI. THE PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST IS TO AVOID ANY DIFFICULTIES OR POSSIBLE EMBARRASSMENT IF LOCAL OFFICIALS OUTSIDE OF DELHI WERE NOT AWARE OF A VISIT OF

FOREIGN OFFICIALS TO THEIR JURISDICTION. IF PRESSED,

WHETHER THE U.S. DOES SO NOTIFY THE GOI AND WHETHER IT
APPLIES ANY FORM OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRAVEL OF INDIAN
EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. WE WOULD REPLY THAT IT HAS
NOT BEEN THE PRACTICE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY TO SEND ANY
SUCH NOTIFICATION AND THE ISSUE OF RESTRICTIONS OR NOTIFICA-
TION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INDIAN EMBASSY DOES NOT ARISE.
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